Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06389 210654Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 H-01 /046 W
----------004720 210655Z /11
P 210622Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2417

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6389

STADIS//////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS
SUBJ: PRISONER RELEASE

1. REV KIM KWAN-SUK TOLD EMBOFF THAT KCIA ASKED HIM AND HIS WIFE TO GO TO KWANGJU PRISON TO CONVINCE KIM'S SON WHO IS BEING HELD THERE TO SIGN STATEMENT OF CONTRITION. REV KIM AND HIS WIFE MADE TRIP LAST WEEK AND SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING SON TO SIGN STATEMENT.

2. REV KIM LEARNED THAT ROKG AUTHORITIES ARE COLLECTING SIGNATURES ON SIMILAR STATEMENTS FROM STUDENT VIOLATORS OF EM-9 THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, EVIDENTLY IN PREPARATION FOR LARGE SCALE RELEASE IN NEAR FUTURE. KIM SPECULATES THAT DAY OF RELEASE WILL BE AUSUST 15 (KOREAN INDEPENDENCE DAY). KCIA REFUSED TO TELL KIM IF ANY OTHER CATEGORY OF PRISONER WAS TO BE INCLUDED IN POSSIBLE RELEASE.

3. KIM SAID AUTHORITIES WARNED HIM NOT TO TELL ANYONE THAT THESE PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE, AND KIM, NOTING THAT EMBOFF WAS ONLY PERSON HE HAD TOLD, ASKED THAT INFORMATION BE KEPT TIGHTLY HELD.

4. THIS IS FIRST HARD INDICATION THAT ROKG IS MAKING ACTUAL PREPARATIONS FOR IMMINENT RELEASE OF PRISONERS,
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ALTHOUGH AN AUGUST 15 AMNESTY HAS BEEN WIDELY RUMORED.
GLEYSTEEN

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Type: TE
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